

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-27. (Canceled)

28. (New) A communication system comprising:

a user interface application for an email service, the user interface application residing on a computer;

a communication manager configured to:

track user activity; and

regulate a level of communications that occurs for an active user based upon a classification of the active user as either an adult or a child, the communication manager residing on the computer, wherein:

the user interface application provides an identity of the active user to the communication manager such that a user interface is arranged according to settings for the active user such that a user having a child persona is restricted from configuring email accounts accessed by the communication manager for the active user having the child persona and a subset of operations performed by the communication manager unless authorized by a user having an adult persona.

29. (New) The communication system of claim 28, further comprising an instant messaging user interface application residing on the computer, wherein the instant messaging user interface application provides the identity of the active user of an instant messaging service to the communication manager such that the instant messaging user interface is arranged in accordance with settings for the active user, wherein the active user is identified as having either a child or an adult type of persona such that a user having a child persona is prohibited from configuring types of instant messaging communications received by and operations performed by the communication system unless authorized by another user of an adult type.

30. (New) The communication system of claim 28, wherein the user interface to the email service displays a folder list of message folders for a local message store when the active user has an adult type of persona, the folder list comprising folders holding messages addressed to the active user having the adult type of persona and folders holding messages addressed to a non-active user having a child type of persona that is being monitored by the active user.

31. (New) The communication system of claim 30, wherein the communication manager determines the messages addressed to the non-active user having a child type persona to be undesirable for the non-active user.

32. (New) The communication system of claim 28, wherein a persona of a child type has a plurality of email accounts that are to be checked for newly received mail when the persona is identified as belonging to an active user.

33. (New) The communication system of claim 28, wherein the persona of a child type identifies a user of an adult type that is needed to authorize restricted operations requested to be performed by an active user having the persona of the child type.

34. (New) The communication system of claim 33, wherein the communication manager requests authorization from a designated user having an adult persona to execute an operation that has been restricted to be performed by a user having a child person when the operation is requested to be performed by an active user having a child persona.

35. (New) A method for providing child protection in communication services comprising:

tracking user activity on a computer;

regulating a level of communications that occurs for an active user based upon a classification of the active user as either an adult or a child;

identifying the active user of the computer as either having a persona of a child type or an adult type;

arranging a user interface of the computer for an email service according to settings for the persona identified to be that of the active user; and

restricting a user having a child persona from configuring email accounts accessed by the computer for the active user having the child persona and performing a subset of operations associated with the user interface for the email service unless authorized by a user having an adult persona.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

arranging a user interface of the computer for an instant messaging service according to settings for the persona identified to be that of the active user; and

restricting a user having a child persona from configuring types of instant messaging communications received for the active user and operations performed for the active user unless authorized by another user of an adult type.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the user interface to the email service displays a folder list of message folders for a local message store when the active user has an adult type of persona, the folder list comprising folders holding messages addressed to the active user having the adult type of persona and folders holding messages addressed to a non-active user having a child type of persona that is being monitored by the active user.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising:

determining the messages addressed to the non-active user having a child type persona to be undesirable for the non-active user.

39. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein a persona of a child type has a plurality of email accounts that are to be checked for newly received mail when the persona is identified as belonging to an active user.

40. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the persona of a child type identifies a user of an adult type that is needed to authorize restricted operations requested to be performed by an active user having the persona of the child type.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising:
requesting authorization from a designated user having an adult persona to execute an operation that has been restricted to be performed by a user having a child person when the operation is requested to be performed by an active user having a child persona.

43. (New) A computer readable method encoded with a computer program for providing child protection in communication services when executed by a computer processor, the program comprising:

- tracking user activity on a computer;
- regulating a level of communications that occurs for an active user based upon a classification of the active user as either an adult or a child;
- identifying the active user of the computer as either having a persona of a child type or an adult type;
- arranging a user interface of the computer for an email service according to settings for the persona identified to be that of the active user; and
- restricting a user having a child persona from configuring email accounts accessed by the computer for the active user having the child persona and performing a subset of operations associated with the user interface for the email service unless authorized by a user having an adult persona.

44. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 43, the program further comprising:

arranging a user interface of the computer for an instant messaging service according to settings for the persona identified to be that of the active user; and

restricting a user having a child persona from configuring types of instant messaging communications received for the active user and operations performed for the active user unless authorized by another user of an adult type.

45. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the user interface to the email service displays a folder list of message folders for a local message store when the active user has an adult type of persona, the folder list comprising folders holding messages addressed to the active user having the adult type of persona and folders holding messages addressed to a non-active user having a child type of persona that is being monitored by the active user.

46. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 45, the program further comprising:

determining the messages addressed to the non-active user having a child type persona to be undesirable for the non-active user.

47. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein a persona of a child type has a plurality of email accounts that are to be checked for newly received mail when the persona is identified as belonging to an active user.

48. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the persona of a child type identifies a user of an adult type that is needed to authorize restricted operations requested to be performed by an active user having the persona of the child type.

49. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 48, the program further comprising:

requesting authorization from a designated user having an adult persona to execute an operation that has been restricted to be performed by a user having a child person when the operation is requested to be performed by an active user having a child persona.